

CLAIMSWhat is claimed is:

1. A system for enabling Seekers to create and post challenges for Solvers in a networked system, the system comprising a template driven interface that:

enables a user to select whether to create a new challenge or work with an existing challenge that has previously been stored, and if the user selects to create a new challenge, presents to the user a series of templates that prompts the user for input relating to the challenge to be created, the prompts including one or more of: an identification prompt; a background information prompt; a detailed information prompt regarding the challenge; a resources required prompt; an abstract of the challenge; a potential target Solvers information prompt; and a potential available resources prompt; receiving user input in response to the prompts; generating a challenge in response to the user input and system rules; and posting the challenge to a network.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein after the desired information is specified, the system can present a summary of the all entered information for review by the user in one screen.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein after the desired information is specified, the system can present a summary of the information entered for review by the user and a list of any attachments specified by the user.
4. The system of claim 2 wherein from the summary review screen, the user can approve or modify any of the previously entered information and save the information in a specified format.

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5. The system of claim 4 wherein the system can provide the user an option to specify the format in which the document should be saved, where the document should be saved and a file name for the document.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein challenges previously prepared by the user can be saved and recalled by the user for subsequent modification and/or for use as a template for new challenges.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein once a challenge has been saved it can be posted to the network in accordance with the procedures established by the system operator.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein the identification prompt comprises user/Seeker identification and/or contact information.

9. The system of claim 1 wherein the background prompt comprises prompts to request background information related to the challenge including one or more of scientific background information, the company's history relating to the challenge and/or other background information

10. The system of claim 1 wherein the detailed information prompt prompts the user to insert related information regarding the challenge, including one or more of a detailed description, supporting information, solution criteria. award and/or other detailed information.

11. The system of claim 1 wherein an attachment prompt provides a user to facilitate the ability to attach existing documents or documents created using a separate

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application that are stored on a hard drive, network drive or otherwise stored but accessible to the user.

12. The system of claim 1 wherein the prompts further including a discipline specification prompt that requests the user to specify one or more disciplines to which the challenge relates and/or specific categories within the disciplines.

13. The system of claim 1 wherein the posted challenge is used as a template for future challenges.

RES 102608v1